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February 18, 2013

Lawsuit over community fluoridation in Southern California dismissed

San Diego—A federal district court in California Jan. 25 granted a motion to dismiss a lawsuit seeking to stop the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California from adding fluoride to its water.

The case entitled *Foli v. the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California* sought to require the MWD to stop adding hydrofluosilicic acid to the public's drinking water, alleging it constituted unlawful and unconstitutional medication of the plaintiffs since the compound has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as safe and effective for treatment of disease or dental cavities. The suit also accused the MWD of unfair and unlawful business practices.



District Court Judge Janis Sammartino dismissed the federal claims in the lawsuit with prejudice, meaning that the case is fully resolved except for a possible appeal, and declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims. In April 2012, the court had dismissed the plaintiffs' original complaint with leave to amend, and the plaintiffs subsequently filed this amended complaint.

"The California Dental Association is pleased with the court's ruling in this case," said CDA President Lindsey Robinson. "Community water fluoridation is proven to be very safe and effective in preventing tooth decay, and it is important that Californians—especially children—receive its preventive benefits."

The MWD serves nearly 19 million water district customers in Southern California.

For more information on fluoridation, visit ADA.org/fluoride.